

Brooke Newell
19 Fulton Street
Glens Falls NY 12801

August 9, 2007

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:


I am a hearing person who uses Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate with deaf and hard-of-hearing associates. I very much support the idea of the FCC cutting the VRS rate.

Sorenson Communications and other VRS providers spent a huge amount of money this spring on lobbying efforts designed to scare the Deaf community into believing that the FCC was going to do away with VRS. To read President and CEO Pat Nola's most recent statement of how many people were paid to conduct this disingenuous lobbying campaign, visit www.vrsca.org.

As a taxpayer, I am concerned that they are obviously being over-compensated for this service. Otherwise they would not have spent so much on keeping the rate as high as it is. Over the last year, I have watched as other competitors (like Sprint) have worked hard to break into the market that was monopolized by Sorenson. That also tells me that it is a very lucrative business.

It is time to let the free market influence the cost of this service for the sake of the American taxpayers. Reduce the rate and see which providers are still interested. I suspect they all will be. Thank you for keeping the taxpayer in mind as you consider these cuts in the VRS rate. Please do not give in to lobbying efforts orchestrated by these large companies who are trying to convince the Deaf community that VRS service will be threatened.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brooke Newell".

Brooke Newell

Caspar J. Green
100 Maple Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801

August 9, 2007

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Sincerely,


Caspar J. Green

Christy Hughes
71 Glenwood Avenue
Queensbury NY 12804

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Sincerely,

Christy Hughes

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Adelstein, Copps, McDowell, and Tate:

I am a deaf person and I use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate. I was appalled to learn that the FCC staff is intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more deaf people.

I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals. I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.

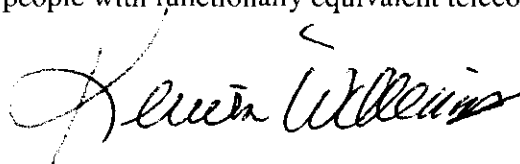
The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more deaf people
- Provide interpreter training programs so that there will be an adequate number of qualified interpreters for VRS and the local Deaf communities
- Provide service and technology improvements, such as the development of new videophone equipment, fulfilling the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandate of functionally equivalent telecommunications services

I, along with other deaf individuals, their families and coworkers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "W".